(b) The final details of the scheme are yet to be worked out by VSNL. It is intimated that such scheme is not likely to be inferior to the scheme introduced while VSNL was holding PSU character. With the Government disinvesting its holding in VSNL, on 13th February, 2002, VSNL has become a non-government company, as such, detailed information of this nature is deemed confidential to any private sector company.

Payment of telephone bills in Karnataka

3598. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that in Karnataka, telephone bills above Rs. 1000/- would have to be paid through Demand Draft/Cheque; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps to allow payment of telephone bills at least upto Rs. 2500/- in cash in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir. Telephone bills above Rs. 1000/- are not required to be paid through Cheques and Demand Drafts only except at collection centres managed by Bangalore Telecom District of Karnataka Telecom Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. The restriction has been imposed in Bangalore to reduce the waiting time of subscribers and curtail/ minimize the risk of handling huge cash in crowded cash counters.

(b) Payment of telephone bills is already allowed to be accepted in cash without restriction of amount at authorized Head Post Offices, Sub Post Offices, Branch Post Offices and the following branches of certain banks in Karnataka Telecom Circle :

1. Syndicate Bank
2. Indian Overseas Bank
3. State Bank of Mysore
4. Corporation Bank
5. Varada Grameena Bank
6. Lord Krishna Bank
7. Global Trust Bank
8. Karnataka Bank
9. IDBI
10. Central Bank

11. State Bank of India
12. Federal Bank
13. UTI Bank
14. Chipko Grameena Bank
15. ICICI Bank

Wireless Planning Cell of DoT

3599. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the path forward of wireless Planning Cell of DoT on CDMA Spectrum;

(b) whether Government plan to give 5 Mhz to each basic service licencee in all licensed areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) Basic Telephone Service Providers are permitted spectrum for CDMA based WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) service in the frequency band 824-844 MHz paired with 869-889 MHz, to be earmarked on first come first served basis. Spectrum upto 5 MHz + 5 MHz can be earmarked to each Basic Telephone Service Provider based on their requirements. Coordination of requirements may be necessary to protect existing users. Basic Telephone Service Providers, on installing the Point of Presence in a SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area), become eligible for spectrum upto 2.5 + 2.5 MHz in that SDCA. Further earmarking of spectrum is subject to their fulfilling the roll out obligations, as stipulated in the License Agreement and availability of spectrum.

New Tariff Regime

3600. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has postponed implementation of the new tariff regime and inter-connect user charges;